

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE; AUTHORIZING AND ENCOURAGING THE IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF IDAHO'S HISTORIC AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS; AND ENCOURAGING THE IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND TO THE LEGISLATURE.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho historic agricultural buildings are witnesses to the role of agriculture in our state's history and its economy and serve as scenic landmarks for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, historic agricultural buildings across Idaho symbolize important Idaho values of heritage, hard work, productivity and an attachment to the land and the people who built them; and

WHEREAS, historic agricultural buildings uphold the historic rural qualities of Idaho's landscape, along with providing a picturesque atmosphere for the state's citizens and visitors to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, these structures provide insight into our distinctive agricultural history and heritage, as well as a visual description of Idaho rural life, both past and present; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office and local historic preservation commissions across Idaho have recorded historic agricultural buildings for both the National Register of Historic Places and the Idaho Historic Sites Inventory; and

WHEREAS, while historic agricultural buildings are cherished by many Idaho residents and visitors, many can no longer produce the necessary income to prevent damage by decay or demolition, or the structures become threatened when the surrounding land is removed from active agricultural use; and

WHEREAS, as a result of such threats, the landscape of Idaho's agricultural environment is rapidly disappearing and with it an invaluable part of Idaho's history is also disappearing, as are opportunities for rural economic development; and

WHEREAS, many states, including Iowa, Washington, Vermont, New York and Illinois have enacted legislation creating preservation and restoration programs to assist owners of historic agricultural buildings with their efforts to preserve these cultural and architectural treasures for education, enjoyment, and the economic benefit of this and future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho State Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office, in consultation with the Idaho Department of Commerce, the Idaho Heritage Trust, Preservation Idaho, and such other entities as the Idaho State Historical Society deems necessary, is authorized and encouraged to conduct a study of Idaho historic agricultural buildings, including:

- (1) Current historic agricultural restorations and preservation efforts and needs in Idaho;

1 (2) The benefits that a historic agricultural building restoration and preservation program  
2 in Idaho could have on tourism and other economic development activities in rural areas;  
3 and

4 (3) Programs and incentives in place in other states to promote historic agricultural build-  
5 ing restoration and preservation.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho State Historical Society is encouraged to  
7 report its findings and recommendations for Idaho's efforts to better record and preserve Idaho  
8 historic agricultural buildings to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2010.